

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 - 58.

Please add the following new claims.

Claim ~~59~~¹ A method of diagnosing a mycobacterial infection in a subject comprising the steps of:

contacting a sample from the subject with a purified mycobacterial lipid cell- wall component or analog or derivative thereof or a synthetic form thereof or with a composition comprising a purified mycobacterial lipid cell-wall component or analog or derivative thereof or synthetic form thereof or with a conjugate comprising a purified mycobacterial lipid cell-wall component or analog or derivative thereof or synthetic form thereof and a carrier associated therewith or a composition comprising the conjugate; and

detecting any reaction between the purified mycobacterial lipid cell-wall component or analog or derivative thereof or synthetic form thereof or composition or conjugate and the sample.

Claim ~~60~~²² A method according to claim ~~59~~¹, wherein the step of detecting any reaction between the purified mycobacterial lipid cell-wall component or analog or derivative thereof or synthetic form thereof or composition or conjugate and the sample comprises detecting the binding of an antibody present in the sample to the purified mycobacterial lipid

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cell-wall component or analog or derivative thereof or synthetic form thereof or composition or conjugate.

Claim ³61 A method according to claim ¹59, wherein the purified lipid cell-wall component or analog or derivative or synthetic form thereof is a purified mycolic acid or analog or derivative thereof or synthetic form thereof or mixture of purified mycolic acids or analog or derivative or synthetic form thereof.

Claim ⁴62 Detection means for detecting the presence of antibodies to a purified mycobacterial lipid cell-wall component or analog or derivative thereof or synthetic form thereof or to a composition comprising the purified mycobacterial lipid cell-wall component or analog or derivative thereof or synthetic form thereof or to a conjugate comprising the purified mycobacterial lipid cell-wall component or analog or derivative thereof or synthetic form thereof and a carrier associated therewith or to a composition comprising the conjugate comprising:

a solid phase; and

a purified mycobacterial lipid cell-wall component or analog or derivative thereof or synthetic form thereof or a composition comprising the purified mycobacterial lipid cell-wall component or analog or derivative thereof or synthetic form thereof or a conjugate comprising the purified mycobacterial lipid cell-wall component or analog or derivative thereof or synthetic form thereof and a carrier, or a composition comprising the conjugate, associated therewith.

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Claim ~~63~~⁵

Detection means according to claim ~~62~~⁴, wherein the purified mycobacterial lipid cell-wall component or analog or derivative or synthetic form thereof is a purified mycolic acid or analog or derivative or synthetic form thereof or mixture of purified mycolic acids or analog or derivative or synthetic form thereof.

Claim ~~64~~⁶⁶

Detection means according to claim ~~62~~⁴, wherein the solid phase is an ELISA plate.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please provide the following Abstract of the Disclosure on a separate page:

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